21 NOV 1983

ISSUES OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

FOR

SENIOR PLANNING CONFERENCE

1. Emphasis on Information Computing and Communication - As the issues change and as we increase our efforts to keep ahead of a dynamic world situation, we will put even greater demands on the use of our computer resources. We will see an increased role for communications and computing to support the environment and the situations predicted in the View of the Future.

All aspects of our intelligence needs will demand continued emphasis on computers and communications for collection, processing, manipulation, reduction, display, and production of intelligence. These challenges will place demands on our ability to support increasingly sophisticated and complex processing requirements. We must keep pace with the huge volumes of data which will require not only rapid expansion of existing services, but changeover and adaptation of new generations of computing, communications, and cryptographic equipment. We must increase our emphasis on the computer security discipline and our efforts to identify and negate security threats.

We must develop and support tools which assist the analysts in the collection, analysis, and manipulation of huge volumes of data.

2. Emphasis on Training - This dynamic environment will place additional demands on computer, communications and training professionals to build and understand systems which provide maximum support for varied aspects of the Agency environment. A new generation of analysts will require new tools, retraining, and new training. We must assure that our support personnel receive the training and enhance the skills which will be necessary to build and maintain this computer-dependent, highly technical environment. We must go beyond what we understand today to prepare our personnel for the challenges of the future.